



Virginia Unmanned Systems Commission - Fourth Meeting

June 7, 2016

Virginia Tech Executive Briefing Center

900 N. Glebe Road

Arlington, VA 22203

Chairs Present:

Dr. John S. Langford, Chairman and CEO of Aurora Flight Systems

Ms. Nicole Barranco, State Government Relations, Volkswagen Group of America

Members Present:

Jim Hughes, Vice President of Submarine Programs, Newport News Shipbuilding

Guy Sanitate, Scitor Corporation, an SAIC Company

Robert E. "Bob" Dehnert, Senior Director, Raytheon Company

Steve Weidner, National Air Traffic Controllers Association

Victoria Cox, Senior Technical Advisor, Veracity Engineering

Tom Dingus, Director, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute

Scott Strimple, Captain, United Airlines

David Hamrick, Senior Technical Advisor, The MITRE Corporation

Vice Admiral David Architzel USN (Ret), President, Fairlead Boat Works, Inc. (Special Advisor)

Representing Commission Members:

Nicholas Devereux, Office of U.S. Senator Mark Warner, for Senator Mark Warner

Randy Burdette, Executive Director, Virginia Department of Aviation, for Secretary Aubrey Layne

Amy Harris, Director of STEM, Office of the Secretary of Education, for Secretary Anne Holton

Guests in Attendance:

David Hinton, Executive Director to the Commission, Office of the Secretary of Technology

Greg Richards, Assistant Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General

Jonathan Selby, Office of the Secretary of Technology

John Kissel, Virginia Information Technologies Agency

Members of the Public Present:

Richard Bensinger, Loudoun County

Login Kapitan, USIC

Daniel Morris, National Institute of Aerospace

Stacy Stratton, Computer Aid, Inc. (CAI)

Steve Eisenrauch, Dominion Power

Myra Blanco, Virginia Tech Transportation Institute (VTTI)

Donna Lawson, NASA Langley Research Center

Mark Blanks, Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP)

Bob Stolle, Center for Innovative Technology (CIT)

Tracy Tynan, Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP)

Jon Greene, Virginia Tech

Samantha O'Gara,	Office of Senator Mark Warner
Kevin Pomfret,	Williams Mullen
Floyd Adagio,	Orion Networking
Shyam Chidamber,	Flirtey
Jennifer Dionne,	Atlantic Strategies Group (ASG)
Bradley Blank,	Liberty University
David Tinsley,	Virginia Tech
Tim Tingler,	Quest Knight Enterprises
Valerie Palamountain,	Piedmont Virginia Community College
Darren Goodbar,	Piedmont Virginia Community College
Wachira Reed,	Drone Airspace Management
James Reed,	Drone Airspace Management
Avery Brown,	Drone Airspace Management

Minutes:

10:00 am Call to Order

David Hinton described the process of developing the draft recommendations. They represent an integration of work group products, outcomes of our education summit (held March 14-15, 2016 at Virginia Tech), and one-on-one discussions with Commissioners and others. We will only be voting on the substance of the recommendations. Note that where there is suggestion as to parties to an action the intent is to suggest a minimum set for consideration. The intent is not to exclude anyone not listed. The level of specificity of the recommendations is kept low to allow for appropriate flexibility in implementation. The intent is to recommend “what” rather than “how”. In the weeks following this meeting the remainder of the report will be written and I will work with the Commissioners in this process to ensure clarity and preservation of the intent.

Nicholas Devereux: Senator Warner extends his thanks everyone here. He is very pleased with the focus that this Commission has brought to Virginia and Unmanned Systems.

10:06 am Commissioners’ Comments to the Recommendations

David Architzel: The question is where do we go from here? These items need resources and need an advocacy group and leadership. This needs to move to the next phase and be resourced.

Scott Strimple: I echo those comments. Some minor wordsmithing is needed in the recommendations but the substance is solid.

Bob Dehnert: echo. Appreciate the process and the collaborative approach. I support the recommendations.

Randy Burdette: Secretary Layne believes unmanned systems are part of transportation of the future.

Amy Harris: With Virginia high school programs redesign; the recommendations here are working towards that. Secretary Holton is happy with these recommendations.

Jim Hughes: I see no mandatory changes to the wording needed, good job in putting together. This is exactly where we need to go. Need to move forward in integrated way. This is the right framework.

Nicole Barranco: This is an excellent compilation both in innovative ideas and in keeping regulations at a minimum.

Tom Dingus: The recommendations are good. This represents a lot of hard work. It is just a first step; we cannot lose momentum. We need resources behind them. The next step is really critical.

Victoria Cox: The need for the advocacy jumps out and we cannot wait for things to happen.

Guy Sanitate: Very happy with the recommendations. We need to leave here with a clear path forward. Whether that be the trade association or other. We cannot stand still.

David Hamrick: The recommendations are very clear and very specific. Agree we need a central point in Virginia to move forward. We should highlight in the final report that this is key. I volunteer to help with the final report.

Steve Weidner: I am happy with this as it has turned out.

John Langford: There are many good ideas here. Some made it in and some are yet to be discussed. The report is not just a request for funds. Some ideas will require funding but they must be driven by the intellectual foundation first.

10:18 am Approval Votes

Nicole Barranco motions to accept the recommendations.

Guy Sanitate seconds the motion.

Voting in favor: unanimous.

John Langford: Asks for a motion to approve the minutes of the Second Commission meeting.

Nicole Barranco motions to approve.

Jim Hughes seconds the motion.

Unanimously approved.

John Langford: Asks for a motion to approve the minutes of the Third Commission meeting

Nicole Barranco motions to approve.

Jim Hughes seconds the motion.

Unanimously approved.

John Langford: Asks for a motion to approve the Interim Recommendations of the Commission

Nicole Barranco motions to approve.

Jim Hughes seconds the motion.

Unanimously approved.

10:20 am Additional Commissioner comments

David Architzel: Automotive is moving fast – see the advertisements. Virginia can take a lead here. This is about leading and not following someone. At a linear pace we will get behind. We need to get to the next level quickly.

Nicole Barranco: I endorse the idea of a trade association or a single point for unmanned systems. This is ideal for a quasi – government organization or partnership.

David Hamrick: Reminds everyone of the great work in Albemarle Co around UAS search and rescue. The public will see the good if we can move this forward.

Guy Sanitate: Regards follow on steps; will there be a robust government/industry partnership? Where does the Senator stand? We should bring together the CEOs that have a stake. Execution is key. We need robust participation from government/academia/industry at every step.

Nicholas Devereux: The Senator has been clear that some form of a marketing entity is needed. We have had discussion about how that could be structured. We are less concerned with where it is housed than with the leadership aspect. We have several parts here; the UMS Advocate, etc. To the Senator it is critical that we flesh out how those relationships might work with an eye on the leadership aspect.

Randy: Echo. A trade association is critical and timely.

John Langford: Most successful test sites have a direct tie to economic development. Do you have ideas on how to strengthen those ties?

Bob Dehnert: We received a box from the governor of Mississippi, encouraging Raytheon to consider Mississippi. Virginia is behind. We can catch up but we must act quickly. The recommendations are not glitzy but are the foundation for what we must do. Let's not talk – let's act on this.

10:30 am Public Comment

Floyd Adagio: Get on with the low hanging fruit. New York has been effective: they lean forward. Hope for a clearinghouse in the state, a quasi-trade association. Griffiss AFB is a possible model. Loudon County has an opportunity there as well. There is big opportunity for the use of information from UAS, not the UAS themselves. The UAS are a commodity.

John Langford: This came up a lot. It is not in report and we are not sure how to capture. Our competitors have assets like Griffiss that have been BRAC'd and used for economic development. Wallops could be but not interested in commercial. We need a change of mindset of people running those facilities and the leadership to recognize the importance of commercial development.

Bob Dehnert: Consider the information that comes from these vehicles, and the supply chain. The components that go into the UAS are key. The supply chain piece does not come out in the report; it could be more robust with supply chain and leveraging the data. I volunteer to help with that writing.

Guy Sanitate: There is an important point we have raised in this forum. What do we do with the data from the UAS? We need to highlight in the final report. And sensors and data analytics.

Bob Dehnert: Data analytics is the heart of this.

Jon Greene: About the Mid-Atlantic Aviation Partnership (MAAP), there is a timely opportunity we are facing. We are heading towards a different arrangement with the other two states. This is an opportunity. While we do not have a BRAC'd base we do have some good stuff at Blackstone. Some exciting things are happening down there. And we need to get something going on the eastern shore.

John Langford: Thanks to you for leadership and making MAAP come about. It takes the individual drivers to push these forward.

Mark Blanks: The MAAP ship is turning, not overnight but turning. Focusing on bigger projects, Beyond Visual line of Sight, and certification. We need more collaboration.

Valerie Palamountain: Thanks the Commission, especially for education. Look to community colleges as a source of leadership in developing workforce.

Kevin Pomfret: A group is forming the trade association. We are in the exploratory phase. We expect a launch announcement before Labor Day. We have an Executive Director in mind as interim with great deal of experience in the industry.

Darren Goodbar: How do we engage commercial operators and integrate with NGOs (COA, etc.) York County is one of the first participants. This is moving fast. York County plans to treat UAS and body cam images in the same way.

John Langford: Part 107 will change things quickly and dramatically when it hits.

Tracy Tynan: Ideas: bring in writers from magazines. Sponsor media tours of the state. Partner with NASA Langley for their 100th Anniversary celebration.

Avery Brown: Consider encryption and data security of the data coming off the UAS. Virginia is well positioned to look at this.

Login Kapitan: Look at the applications and not the vehicle. What is the business case for companies to come here and provide a service? Maintenance, operations, data... Say "this is how your business case will work".

Bradley Blank: I echo the educational side of this. A Virginia strength is collaboration at many levels.

Steve Eisenrauch: We have been using UAS for about a year now on our right of ways. We would not be where we are today without the MAAP. BVLOS is a big need.

Bob Stolle: We are seeing a shift in the model that the government is using – towards accelerators. Consider the EMERGE accelerator. This is more than SBIR grants. We focus and invest in startups.

Floyd Adagio: Virginia is behind. Catch up is not a trivial matter. Low hanging fruit is an opportunity.

11:07 am Final comments from the Commissioners

Randy Burdette: UAS and General Aviation can fly together.

David Architzel: Saw New York aggressively market. Where is the focus of this marketing in Virginia? The discussion we just had hit every recommendation in the report. We need to attract small business here. SBIR dies after phase 2. There is a gap to cross to commercialization. The rudder is over now; it takes advocacy and getting alignment.

Scott Strimple: Time is of the essence here. We have a roadmap. Leaders need to act on this.

11:14 am Wrap-up

David Hinton: Extended a thank you to the Commissioners on behalf of Secretary Jackson for their service. We also asked for concurrence from the Commissioners that the approval of the recommendations as they stand does not preclude tweaks or clarifications to the wording. All concurred.

Nicholas Devereux: Thank you to all. Some of the recommendations take resources and some do not. Senator Warner is appreciative of the scope and breadth of the recommendations. We need to keep our foot on the gas. Count on him as an advocate as we go forward.

Motion to Adjourn made by Nicole Barranco, seconded by Scott Strimple. Approved.

11:16 am Adjourned